



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

"A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ"

Newsletter

June 11 & 18, 2017

(225) 635-4065-Office
(225) 635-4410-Fax

Rector

Vy Rev. Dr. Roman Roldan
rector@gracechurchwfp.org

Associate Rector

Rev. Dr. Peter Kang
associate@gracechurchwfp.org

Director of Family Ministries

Meg Kendrick
Youth@gracechurchwfp.org

Parish Administrator

Anne Klein
secretary@gracechurchwfp.org

Pre-School

(225) 635-4030
Diana Weller
Preschool@gracechurchwfp.org

Emily Barrow
Stacy Loyacono
Erica Blanchard

Director of Music Ministries

Melvin E. Hale
Music@gracechurchwfp.org

Vestry

Leslie Daniel
Christian DeJean
Dare Didier
Zed Howell
Heather Howle
Richard Kendrick
Mickey Melancon
Sue Steib
Dr. Adam Whatley
Glenn Thomas, Treasurer
treasurer@gracechurchwfp.org
Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

Ten Months Later the Flood Recovery Program Continues.

The flood waters that rose rapidly on the weekend of August 12th did not discriminate in their inundation of homes and businesses. This June marks ten months since the devastating flooding of August 2016, and while we may not see much of the recovery process in our day to day life, the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and our church have been a part of the continued flood recovery efforts.

Our diocese received four grants from Episcopal Relief and Development, two grants from the Bishop's fund, and the overwhelming and generous donations from our congregation and the West Feliciana community. Our community has supported the flood recovery efforts through charitable monetary donations as well as the numerous meals prepared to serve and host the volunteers that have served both our community as well as the wider flood affected areas. Members of our community came together to serve food, muck, gut, and care for many flooded families, both here in West Feliciana and outside of our parish. Shortly after the flood waters receded, the diocese responded to the call for aid.

Since the flooding, we have served two hundred and seven families, representing a total of four hundred and ninety-one individuals across the flood affected areas. These families come from all walks of life. They come from St. Francisville, Denham Springs, Walker, St. Amant, Baton Rouge, Clinton and Jackson. Some of the people we helped had flood insurance while others did not. We have met individuals who have received the maximum amount of aid from FEMA, while others were either turned away or barely received enough to cover rental expenses.

The grant program is meant to help those affected by the floods get one step closer to a new normal. Through the grant program we have been able to provide small financial grants that have helped families to purchase rebuilding supplies such as sheetrock, flooring, and cabinets. We've helped families pay rental and utility fees, purchase new appliances and furniture. Our grant program is unique in that we have been able to serve families that rent as well as families that are homeowners or are paying a mortgage. Not many flood assistance programs serve non-homeowners or the rental community.

Financial assistance is not the only form of aid that we have been able to provide. As many of you know, I've stood up in church on numerous Sundays requesting help in preparing meals for volunteers or help in washing sheets, towels, and blankets following volunteer trips. This year alone we have had seven volunteer teams, representing seventy-two individuals from places such as Lancaster, Pennsylvania, San Angelo, Texas, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Indian Springs, Alabama and St. Louis, Missouri. These volunteers have put up sheetrock, tape and mud, painted, laid flooring and cleaned up homes. The families they served started as strangers and ended as new friends. While staying here at Grace, our congregation provided delicious meals and love. Many groups have followed up with both Father Roldan and I to speak to the

generosity and love they felt from our community and most especially from our congregation.

The last ten months have seen families rebuild, move in, or find new homes. Yet, the road to recovery is long; there are still many families struggling to rebuild, to find the new normal from the August flooding. Our congregation and diocese continues to work and support the flood recovery efforts. While the volunteer housing aspect of the flood recovery program has closed, our financial grant and case management program continues to remain strong to serve those affected. Please continue to support these families through prayer and know that your dedication and support to the flood recovery efforts are greatly appreciated. I'm proud to say that not only do I work for Grace but I am a member of Grace and call this church my home. Thank you again for your unwavering support, dedication, and tireless service.

God Bless, Meg

Richard Rohr is having a presentation on "The Trinity" in New Orleans on Friday, Dec 1 & Saturday Dec. 2. We will be using his "Alternative Orthodoxy" for the Fall Bible Study which begins September 6th. Several members are planning to attend his event in New Orleans, which begins on Friday night 6:30-8:30pm and continues the next day with 2 sessions, 9 to Noon and 1 pm to 3pm. We will rent a van to go down and will stay overnight. We have purchased tickets at the advance price of \$75, (prices went up \$25 on June 1) and have two left. If you'd like to buy one of these tickets, let Dixie Blue know (dixiewblue@gmail.com) 931-5431 . Sounds like a fun trip. Invite anyone who would be interested.

.Summer with the Grace Youth Group:

At the start of the summer, I asked our youth group what they would like to accomplish this summer and how they would like to serve Christ. As is no surprise to me, because I'm quite biased when it comes to our youth, the kids came up with a long list of ways they can serve their neighbors and grow in Christ with an added dose of fun, because after all, they're still kids. It's important for me to instill in our youth a sense of ownership over their youth group and thus we came to the agreement that for the summer we would alternate lessons and service projects with fun days where we can enjoy each other's fellowship and have fun.

For their first service project, the Grace Youth Group chose to start with a month-long collection of hygiene supplies, gift cards, and clothing for blessing bags for our service day with Project Lot on Sunday, June 11th. Other service project ideas include helping with our local animal shelter, clothes closet and food pantry. As the summer progresses, I will keep you updated on the service projects.

The youth are continuing to work their way through the Journey to Adulthood curriculum where they explore themes such as self, society, spirituality and prayer. Each lesson encourages our youth to learn more about themselves while connecting their understanding to their faith and biblical concepts. At the close of the two-year program, our youth will embark on a mission trip. Please let me know if you have any exciting ideas of mission trip locations and areas to serve.

In conjunction with Hannah Rothermel, Director of Youth Ministries at St. James Episcopal in Baton Rouge, we are planning a deanery youth retreat at the end of July. I look forward to our youth group participating in this fun event as well as future diocesan retreats such as Happening and Rallies. As a reminder, our youth group is open to all rising sixth through twelfth graders. The more the merrier! I invite any of you to come join us Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to see our youth in action. They're a loveable, high energy bunch who are growing in amazing ways, both as young adults and in their faith. We always share a meal, laughs and prayer and would be honored to share that with you.

Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members who are ill:

Matt Armstrong, David Barnes, Jamey Daniel, Billy Fort, Daisye Howell, Lucile Lawrason, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Kay Tengler, Sarah Roland, Eleanor Thomas, Dahn Savell, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Megbe Hughes, Edward Daniel-6/12; Cary Benton Fitzmorris, Kell Martin-6/13; Abby Dowd-6/14; Eli Christopher Dwyer-6/16; Alicia Dwyer, Erin Fuslier, Jack Anderson-6/17; Teri Tandy, Kenneth Blue-6/18; Taylor Ferris, Linda Flynn-6/19; Elaina Klein, Leslie Daniel, Ruth Reed, Tim Kane, Laura Thompson, Mary Lyle Whatley-6/20; Neal Croft, Ryan Sparks-6/21; Anne Klein-6/22; Mills McClendon, Mary Camille Bell-6/23.

Wedding

Anniversaries

Ricky & Renee Sparks, Carter & Brittany Leak-6/12; Bryan & Laura McClendon-6/13; Blake & Susan LeBlanc-6/14; Houston & Jessica McVea, Jesse & Nicole Means-6/16; Roman & Chris Roldan-6/17; Rucker & Susan Leake, Carey & Ann Leggett-6/18; Colin & Amanda Browning, John & Sue Steib-6/19; Donny and Susan Davis-6/21; Bryan and Laura McClendon, Bob and Elizabeth Finley-6/23.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Leo Brown, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Mac Bullock, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Bob Crowley, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jean-sonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cecil Kelly, Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Paul McGuff, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Kathy Drew Matter, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, David Merritt, Robin Michel, Dorothy Anne Millikin, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Cecelia Polito, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Toups, Denham Turner, Darold Whitmer, Zane Woodward.

Those serving in the armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, Ben Colia, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragusa, Christopher Willis, Matthew Young, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped Support Squads.

Thank you Rucker and Susan Leake for hosting our Pentecost Picnic at your home. Despite the threatening weather, it did not rain and we all enjoy ourselves and the delicious food. Thanks also to everyone who brought side dishes.

Movie Time! Our local library has a great movie coming up for our seniors on July 16th at 10:00am. They are showing “Belle” which is a historical period piece like many PBS series. Even better, it is based on a true story. It is rated PG and the library will be serving popcorn and soft drinks. Here is a link to a review if you are unfamiliar with the title: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2404181/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1. Let’s go to the movies!

The Vestry will meet on Tuesday, June 20 at 5:30 pm. Senior Warden Richard Kendrick will conduct the meeting.

The Means and Heinz families want to thank everyone for your help during the funeral for our dear Max. Your prayers, flowers, food for the reception in Jackson Hall and presence have shown us so much love and we are very grateful to you. We will never forget your kindnesses. Please pray for our family during this difficult time.

St. John’s will have Morning Prayer led by Bert Babers on Sunday, June 18 at 7:30am. Bp. Jenkins will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 7:30am and 10am at Grace on that Sunday.

Your prayers are asked for the family of Violet Ramirez, mother of Sheryl Wynters, who died on June 5 in Baton Rouge. Funeral services will be in Baton Rouge June 7.



Vacation Bible School is coming July 10 - 14, 2017! *Maker Fun Factory* promises to be a fun and Grace-filled week! There will be games, projects, songs, and delicious snacks. The registration link is on our website now: www.gracechurchwfp.org, on our website. If you would like to volunteer, please call Christie Reinhardt or Meg Kendrick at 635-4065 or email youth@gracechurchwfp.org. A needs-board for donated items, supplies, snacks, and materials for the week will be posted in the narthex of the church. And thank

you in advance for your support.

Register for “Maker Fun Factory” using the form below or visit our website at www.gracechurchwfp.org and look under the “Home” tab and register online there.

Name _____ Gender _____

Date of birth _____ Grade entering _____

Shirt size _____ Allergies _____

Any Medical concerns? _____

Mailing address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone _____

Emergency contact’s name _____ Telephone _____

Relationship to participant: _____

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
St. Francisville LA 70775

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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday June 11, 2017

Acolytes: Julia DeJean, Madison Pollet, Joseph DeJean, Clara Jane Hughes
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Sharon Gauthier
10am: Drew Nordgren, Maria Gerry
Ushers: Richard Kendrick, Tom Morris
Lectors: Dixie Blue, David Bunch
Vestry Rep: Leslie Daniel
Altar Guild Team 1
Altar flowers: Plettinger family
Sanctuary Candle: Carolyn Douglas
Coffee Hour: Elizabeth Denton Mitchell
Babysitters: Shayn Rayford, Lorna Klein

Sunday, June 18, 2017

Acolytes: Paul Opperman, James Kirschling, Lilly Higgins, Ella Corinne Howle
Chalice bearers 7:30am: Bryan McClendon
10am: Brandie Olsen, Sheryl Wynters
Ushers: Tiger Olsen, Will Plettinger
Lectors: Missy Higgins, Heather Howle
Vestry Rep: Christian DeJean
Altar Guild Team 2
Altar flowers: Ronnie and Pat Martin
Sanctuary candle: Anne Klein
Coffee Hour: Donna Wright
Babysitters: Shelby Griffin, Emma Olsen

June 11, 2017

7:30am - Eucharist
Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist
Coffee Hour

June 18, 2017

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
(Grace & St. John's)
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, June 14

5:15pm - Eucharist
5 - 7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, June 15

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, June 16

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, June 18

7:30am - Eucharist (Grace & St. John's)
9:15am - Bible Study

10:00am - Eucharist

Tuesday, June 20

5:30pm - Vestry meeting

Wednesday, June 21

7:00am - Men's Prayer Breakfast
5:15pm - Eucharist
5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, June 22

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, June 23

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study